

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a relational view of electronic objects,
2 comprising steps of:
3 obtaining organizing rules for organizing electronic objects according to relationships;
4 applying the obtained organizing rules against ~~one or more~~ a plurality of electronic
5 objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and
6 rendering a view of the organized electronic objects.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view
2 comprises a hierarchical view.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view
2 comprises a nodal view.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view
2 comprises a network view.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendering view
2 comprises a visual view.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic objects comprise at

2 least one of e-mail messages, textual documents, and image files.

1 Claim 7 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify node-
2 specific organizing criteria for a multi-level index.

1 Claim 8 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating
2 operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon occurrence of a new electronic object.

1 Claim 9 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating
2 operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon modification of the organizing rules.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of repeating
2 operation of the applying step and the rendering step upon request of a user.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules specify one
2 or more of text characters, text words, and text phrases as organizing criteria.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the organizing rules
2 specify one or more images image files as organizing criteria.

1 Claim 13 (original): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of defining the

2 organizing rules, further comprising steps of:

3 retrieving a selection of categories;

4 enabling a user to select one or more of the retrieved categories; and

5 for each selected category, enabling the user to build at least one rule.

1 Claim 14 (original): The method according to Claim 13, wherein the step of enabling the user to
2 build at least one rule further comprises the steps of:

3 retrieving a selection of organizing criteria;

4 enabling the user to select one or more of the retrieved organizing criteria; and

5 formatting a particular rule from the selected retrieved organizing criteria.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A system for providing a relational view of electronic objects,
2 comprising:

3 ~~means for obtaining a plurality of~~ organizing rules for organizing electronic objects
4 according to relationships, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific organizing criteria
5 for nodes at levels of a multi-level index;

6 means for applying the ~~obtained~~ organizing rules against ~~one or more~~ a plurality of
7 electronic objects, yielding ~~organized~~ electronic objects organized according to the multi-level
8 index; and

9 means for rendering a view of the organized electronic objects.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer program product for providing a relational view of
2 electronic objects, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable
3 media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for obtaining organizing rules for organizing
5 electronic objects according to relationships, wherein the organizing rules specify node-specific
6 organizing criteria for a multi-level index;

7 computer-readable program code means for applying the obtained organizing rules against
8 one or more a plurality of electronic objects, yielding organized electronic objects; and

9 computer-readable program code means for rendering a view of the organized electronic
10 objects.

1 Claim 17 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relationships are dynamically
2 selectable by a user.

1 Claim 18 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relationships are dynamically
2 definable by a user.

1 Claim 19 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rendered view comprises a multi-
2 level structure that visually represents the relationships.

1 Claim 20 (new): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the organizing rules for at least two

2 levels of the multi-level structure are different.

1 Claim 21 (new): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
2 retrieving, responsive to a user indication of intent to define a new rule, a selection of
3 organizing criteria;
4 enabling the user to select one or more of the retrieved organizing criteria; and
5 formatting the new rule from the selected organizing criteria.

1 Claim 22 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rules are rules of inclusion.

1 Claim 23 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the rules are rules of exclusion.

1 Claim 24 (new): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of re-applying the
2 organizing rules and refreshing the rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon
3 occurrence of a predetermined event.

1 Claim 25 (new): The method according to Claim 24, wherein the predetermined event is
2 expiration of a timer.

1 Claim 26 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein the rendered view comprises a
2 multi-level structure that visually represents results of organizing the electronic objects using the

3 node-specific organizing criteria of the multi-level index.

1 Claim 27 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein the node-specific organizing criteria
2 of two or more organizing nodes at a particular level of the multi-level index are different.

1 Claim 28 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein:
2 the rendered view comprises a multi-level structure; and
3 the objects rendered for at least one level of the multi-level structure are of different types.

1 Claim 29 (new): The system according to Claim 15, wherein the organizing rules specify one or
2 more bitmaps as organizing criteria.

1 Claim 30 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for enabling a user
2 to specify how nodes at selected levels of the multi-level index are initially rendered.

1 Claim 31 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for enabling a user
2 to specify one or more locations at which the plurality of electronic objects are located.

1 Claim 32 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for re-applying the
2 organizing rules and refreshing the rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon
3 detecting a newly-created electronic object.

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1 Claim 33 (new): The system according to Claim 15, further comprising means for re-applying the
2 organizing rules and refreshing the rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon
3 detecting a newly-arriving electronic object.

1 Claim 34 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the rendered
2 view comprises a multi-level structure that visually represents relationships among the organized
3 objects.

1 Claim 35 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 34, wherein:
2 each non-terminal level of the multi-level structure comprises at least one organizing node;
3 and
4 child nodes of each organizing node satisfy the node-specific organizing criteria of that
5 organizing node.

1 Claim 36 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the node-
2 specific organizing criteria of two or more organizing nodes at a particular level of the multi-level
3 structure are different.

1 Claim 37 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 35, wherein the child nodes
2 of at least organizing node are of different types.

1 Claim 38 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 16, further comprising
2 computer-readable program code means for re-applying the organizing rules and refreshing the
3 rendered view to reflect a result of the re-applying upon detecting a modification to one or more
4 of the organizing rules.

1 Claim 39 (new): The computer program product according to Claim 16, wherein the
2 relationships are dynamically selectable by a user.